



Newsletter July 2026

Hello Fellow Members

Welcome to Carluke Golf Club's newsletter.

We have certainly had some interesting weather so far this season, from heatwaves to complete washouts. I am sure you will all agree that the course is looking great despite the challenging weather and I hope that you have continued to enjoy your golf.

It will not be long until the Club Championship begins and I wish you all the best of luck in your rounds and look forward to presenting our new champions of 2026 with their trophies.

We have some good topics covered in this newsletter, which I am sure you will find informative, so please take the time to read it and appreciate how good a club we have.

Happy golfing

Alan Middleton
Captain

Topics Covered

- Report from the Greens Staff
- Ladies Club Championship
- Get into Golf
- Club Statistics
- A summary of the recent survey
- An introduction to one of our new sponsors, Tony Flynn Mortgages

Update from the Greens Staff



Well, we are pretty much into the swing of things now, if you'll pardon the pun. As we get into summer so far we have had rain, hail, scorching temperatures, thunder, lightning (sheet and fork, one of which just missed the shed) and there might have been the odd normal day as well.

The warm weather has been ideal for growth throughout the course, although in some parts "ideal" is not really ideal.

Greens

The greens have been sprayed with wetting agent, seaweed, growth regulator and fungicide. They have been verti-cut and top dressed, brushed and rolled. Some extra feeding and overseeding have gone on to some of the bare areas to aid recovery. They are being cut daily and we have started to see speed coming onto them. The HOC is currently 4mm. Being wary of the dry weather we have had to do some soaking with the hand watering gun which means we have to be careful with the height of cut and not shave the greens too much.

Tees and Surrounds

The tees are being divoted on a weekly basis. There has been a fair bit of growth on them and they are being cut 2-3 times a week. The drier, bare areas have been sprayed with a wetting agent and are showing signs of recovery. The new tees are holding up well and good growth is kicking in and as we move further into the season they will have stronger natural growth. As a side note, it would be helpful if members could repair divots themselves by filling them with sand and seed, the sand and seed can be found in the box beside the green.

Fairways and Rough

The fairways are looking good and are being cut twice a week.

The rough is being cut weekly and sprayed once a month with the growth regulator to try and keep clippings to a minimum.

General tidying is ongoing but as you can imagine it is similar to painting the Forth Rail Bridge... never ending.

Ladies Club Championship

Well done to everyone who took part in the Ladies Club Championship which took place over 3 weeks in June. The ladies were lucky with the weather, especially in round 2 when the weather was very hot.

Well done to our new Club Champion Anna Paton and to all the other winners.

Championship Cup – Anna Paton

Mauldslie Cup Winner – Karen Melvin

Forest Kirk Trophy Winner – Leigh McLuckie

Copper Kettle Winner - Anne McCann

Sunday Ladies – Jan Kidd



Get Into Golf



The first two sessions for the women getting into golf led by Michael Brooks, our club professional and Fraser Merryweather, assistant professional have been a great success. The women benefited greatly from their expertise and coaching abilities on putting and chipping in the first session and driving and bunker shots in the second session. The time passed quickly as everyone enjoyed learning and practicing new skills. Another two coaching sessions will be organized for the season.

Increasing female membership is not only part of Scottish Golf strategy but it is also very important to the development of the club. With one new full lady member and 11 new Get into Golf members this is a great start to the initiative. By offering the GiG ladies access to the practice area, short game area and putting green we hope to develop their skills and love for the game. Whilst a number of lady members are giving their time to support sessions we would welcome as many helpers as possible.

Club Statistics

The general trend over recent years has shown a significantly higher number of member changes. Whilst this is not necessarily a negative situation it does lead to a degree of financial uncertainty which can make longer term planning a little more difficult. We are in the fortunate position that over the last 2 years we have had more new members than resignations, which has helped with club finances. With around 10% of members leaving on an annual basis we need to be conscious of the impact this could have on future finances. All we can do as a club is to have the best course and clubhouse our finances will allow to help retain and attract as many members as possible.

The current membership is:

7 days	452
6 days	96
5 days	100
16-25 years of age	56
Juniors	104
Resignations	77
New	93

Survey

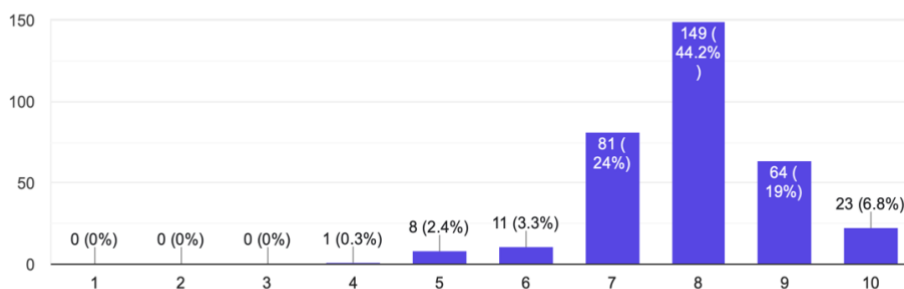
Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the recent survey.

We have received 335 responses so over 50%, therefore a good amount of useful information has been provided.

As you can see from the graph below the overall response is extremely positive with 94.1% rating the course 7 or above out of 10, and it is good to see members expressing their gratitude to the work that is carried out by the greens staff.

How would you rate our golf course overall?

337 responses



Whilst the above numbers are great we all know the course is not perfect. The main concerns are detailed below with a full analysis shown in the charts following split between (a) summer golf and (b) winter golf.

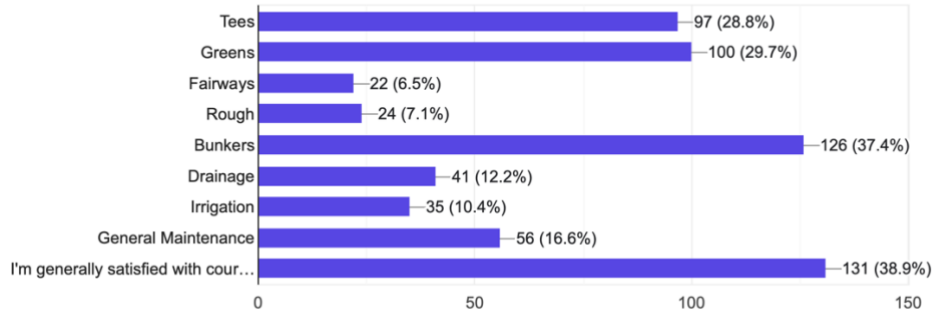
1. **Bunkers** - consistency is the main issue, with the volume of sand in bunkers being significantly different. Raking the bunkers is a pretty close second, however this has to be something we, as members, self-police.
2. **Greens** - whilst there are a few comments that the greens have suffered with disease, the main focus is the speed of the greens and what can be done to improve this.
3. **Tees** - the biggest issue raised in this area relates to how level (or not) the tees currently are, which is summed up by one member's comment that we should have at least 18 shots from a perfectly flat lie. Other comments were around how the tees are a bit scruffy in appearance, however if we can deal with the main issue hopefully this will take care of itself.
4. **Drainage** - as we had an extremely wet winter with the course being closed on occasion a number of members brought up drainage as an issue, however, given the complexity of this and the costs involved our Captain will provide more detail on this separately.

Numbers 1 to 3 have been discussed with the greens staff, who are generally in agreement with the comments made and a plan is being created on the best way to tackle these issues without excess stress on club finances.

Summer Golf Graph

For Summer season play only (March-October), in which areas would you like to see some improvement?

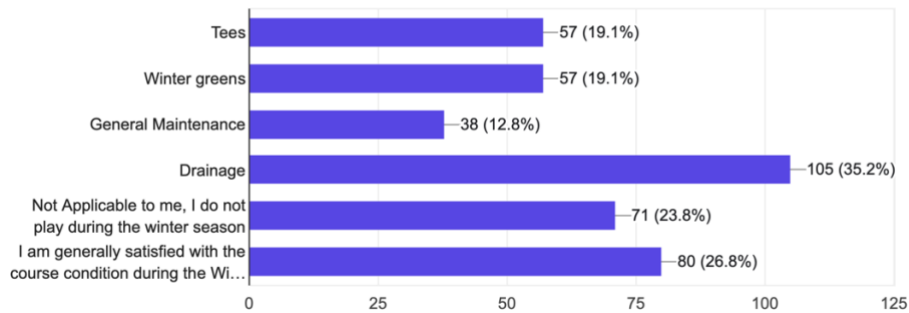
337 responses



Winter Golf Graph

For those who play during the winter season (October - March), in which areas would you like to see some improvement?

298 responses



The main issue, not related to the condition of the course, is the time taken to complete a Saturday Medal with some groups being on the course for 4 hours 30 minutes plus. Given that the standard time for the course is 3 hours 45 minutes it is clear we need to try and improve the situation.

There are some issues leading to slow play that we, as members, should be self-policing.

The points noted below are basic golf etiquette and we appreciate that the reaction to most, if not all, could be "don't try to teach your granny how to suck eggs" (apologies to the younger members who may not have come across such a saying) however, they all happen and whilst each in isolation may not seem like much, they add up, the proof being that the Saturday Medal is taking an hour longer than it should.

- if you are unsure as to the location of your ball, play a provisional. This provisional ball can be in play until you pass the point where you think your ball could be located, and hopefully found;
- don't go looking for your ball, decide it can't be found then trudge back to the tee to hit the provisional;
- adhere to the 3 minutes rule when looking for a ball;
- be aware of where the groups in front and behind are. If the group in front are out of sight and the group behind are constantly waiting, do something about it;
- let quicker groups through, some people are naturally quicker than others;
- be conscious of ways where time can be wasted. Put your trolley in a place around the green that is time efficient for the next tee. You can always carry a wedge or sand wedge with you if you are not actually on the green. Mark your scorecard on the next tee when other group members are teeing off;
- golf is a social event, we golf to be out with our mates and meet new mates, so be sociable but chat whilst walking, don't stop to do so, don't do it on the green when putts are completed or on the tee when everyone comes together.

As all members are aware, the main blockage is between the 3rd and 4th holes. To try and improve this we propose that play on the 3rd is called forward, ie, those playing on the 3rd fairway play their 2nd shots as soon as the 3rd green is clear. The players on the 3rd fairway have priority over those on the 4th tee. This new priority will commence as soon as we have received the signs to put up in appropriate places so that there is plenty of reminders to adhere to the new procedure.

New Sponsor Tony Flynn Mortgages



Let me introduce myself, I am Tony Flynn, a new member at Carluke Golf Club and owner of Tony Flynn Mortgages, a business which has been helping people buy houses in the local area for 7 years.

As a local business owner, I felt that sponsoring an area of the golf course (the shoes and trolley cleaning area) would assist the club, whilst helping me to integrate within the club and of course offer assistance in my area of expertise to members, their family and friends whenever needed.

So how can I be of assistance

Having helped people buy homes across Lanarkshire for a number of years now, I know the people who tend to do best are usually the ones who start asking questions early. Not every situation is right for buying, and even if it is the number of options available can be daunting and confusing. In my professional capacity I will always tell you honestly if now isn't the right time and as I'm not tied to any single bank I can search across 90+ lenders with more than 12,000 mortgage deals, therefore, together we can find the best option to fit your situation.

So, is 2026 a Good Time to Buy a Home in Carluke?

For a lot of people I'm speaking to just now, the numbers are making far more sense than they expected.

People who put plans on hold in 2023 when rates spiked are starting to come back, and quite a few have been surprised by what they can actually afford in Carluke today. The following is a quick look at where things stand.

The average sold price in the area is currently £201,790, based on the latest Registers of Scotland figures covering sales up to February 2026.

For first-time buyers, terraced homes average around £126,627, well below the £175,000 LBTT threshold — meaning no stamp duty at all for first-time buyers in Scotland.

South Lanarkshire also recorded the highest annual house price growth of any local authority in Scotland last year, rising 9.4% compared to the Scottish average of 4.5% and the UK average of 2.5%.¹

What's happening with mortgage rates

The Bank of England held its base rate at 3.75% on 30 April 2026,² and several lenders reduced rates again during the first week of May.

For many buyers, monthly payments are starting to look more manageable than they expected.

Whilst you will be aware that there is a lot of uncertainty in the world, within the mortgage market the deals available now are more favourable than they have been for the last few years.

If you want you to start with your early questions, please feel free to get in touch.

Tony Flynn | Director & Mortgage Broker

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🌐 [TF Mortgages](https://www.tfmortgages.co.uk)

Sources:

¹ UK House Price Index Scotland, gov.uk (November 2025 data)

² Bank of England base rate decision, bankofengland.co.uk (30 April 2026)

Revenue Scotland, LBTT First-Time Buyer Relief

Registers of Scotland (Crown copyright), ros.gov.uk



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